

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed May 25, 2010 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed. Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 14, 16, 19 and 20 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. *Office Action* at p. 3.

By this amendment, claims 14 and 16 are hereby canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. The subject matter of claims 14 and 16 has been incorporated into independent claims 13 and 15 respectively, thus making independent claims 13 and 15 allowable. Accordingly, claims 1-13, 15 and 17-20 remain pending in this application. Claims 1-12 are withdrawn from consideration.

The Office rejects claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Japan'995 Japanese Patent Application Publication No. JP2-23995. *Office Action* at p. 2. The Office rejects claims 15, 17, and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Germany'428 German Patent Application Publication No. 197 45 428. *Office Action* at p. 3.

Without necessarily agreeing with the Office, but rather in the interest of advancing this application to allowance, Applicant has amended independent claim 13 to incorporate all of the subject matter of allowable claim 14. Likewise, Applicant has amended independent claim 15 to incorporate all of the subject matter of allowable claim 16. Accordingly, independent claims 13 and 15 are now in allowable condition and the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejections of those claims should be withdrawn. Claims 17-20 variously depend from allowable claim 15. It stands to reason that the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejections of those dependent claims should also be withdrawn. For all of the reasons stated above, Applicant respectfully requests the Office to withdraw the various 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejections of claims 13, 15 and 17-20.

In light of the foregoing, Applicant believes this application is in condition for allowance and early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete

the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0911.

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Respectfully submitted,

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